

---

# SFY 2012 Regional Funding Plan

---

Pinal Regional  
Partnership Council

---

Date January 5, 2011  
Submitted to the  
First Things First State Board  
for January 24-25, 2011

---



FIRST THINGS FIRST

**PINAL REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

**SFY 2012 FUNDING PLAN**

**July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

- I. Regional Allocation Summary (Funds Available)**
- II. Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012**
  - A. Progress with SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 Funding Plans; And SFY 2012 Planning
  - B. Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments
  - C. Changes in funding levels for strategies from SFY 2011 to SFY 2012
- III. System Building Impact**

## Section I

### Regional Allocation Summary

The following chart shows the total available funds to the Regional Council, by funding sources.

<b>Allocations and Funding Sources</b>	<b>SFY 2010</b>	<b>SFY 2011</b>	<b>SFY 2012</b>
Population Based Allocation	\$4,572,030.00	\$3,634,516.00	\$3,630,479.00
Discretionary Allocation	\$1,193,840.00	\$1,121,722.00	\$835,915.00
Other (FTF fund balance addition)		\$796,812.63	\$784,755.00
Additional Income (other than FTF tobacco tax)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Carry Forward from Previous Year</b>		\$3,194,744.57	\$2,245,556.59
<b>Total Regional Council Funds Available</b>	<b>\$5,765,870.00</b>	<b>\$8,747,795.20</b>	<b>\$7,496,705.59</b>

## **Section II** Prior Years' Review, and Planning for SFY 2012

For 2012 planning, Regional Councils are asked to review the strategies from years prior while they consider direction for SFY 2012. At their September 2010 meeting, the First Things First Board adopted five priorities recommended by the Arizona Early Childhood Task Force for First Things First action within the next one to three years. These priorities represent the roles for which FTF will establish measurable benchmarks and devote resources in order to achieve results for Arizona's young children and their families. They identify services which could be funded at both state and Regional levels. Throughout this 2012 Regional Funding Plan, there are references to these priorities. They are:

**Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.

**Supports and Services for Families** - Convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

**Building Public Awareness and Support** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.

**Professional Development System** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

**Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services** - Collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

In addition, the Task Force recommended that FTF take a leadership role in three priorities that focus on program and process development at the state level. These are:

**Early Childhood System Funding** – Secure, coordinate, and advocate for resources required to develop and sustain the early childhood system. [This does not mean that FTF would be the sole funder of the early childhood system, but would take an active role in helping to increase and coordinate available resources.]

**Early Care and Education System Development and Implementation** - Convene partners and provide leadership in the development and implementation of a comprehensive early care and education system that is aligned both across the spectrum of settings and with the full continuum of the educational system.

**Quality Early Care and Education Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment** - Convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and implementation of quality standards for early childhood care and education programs and related curricula and assessments. [This is integral to improving the quality of early care and education settings.]

**Section II A** Progress with SFY 2010 and SFY 2011 Funding Plans; And SFY 2012 Planning

The table below provides a summary of the Regional Partnership Council's prioritized needs and strategies for SFY 2012, as well as information on progress in SFY 2010 and SFY 2011.

<b>PRIORITY NEED 1:</b> Limited support and resources for medical professionals serving children birth through age five						
<b>Description:</b> Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well-child care (medical/dental homes)						
<b>Strategy:</b> Physician Education and Outreach ( <a href="#">Statewide</a> )						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <i>Continuing Medical Education</i> - Increase medical professional's use of recommended guidelines for preventative medical and oral health care <i>Physician Education and Outreach</i> – Statewide Model - Physician and health provider outreach and education to enhance or expand existing programs and services to address parent knowledge, understanding, and behavior						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Participating Practices	7	Strategy was not awarded in 2010		7	7	7
Medical Professionals	25	25	10	25	25	25
<b>Strategy:</b> Health Insurance Enrollment						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <i>Health Insurance Outreach</i> - Increase outreach to address the following critical health needs: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well-child care (medical/dental homes). Collaborate with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System to expand Health-E Applications so more families will enroll in and retain health coverage and other public benefits for their young children.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Families	500	150	8	1,000	850	1,000
<b>Summary of Progress and Challenges</b> <b>Rationale for Changes to SFY12</b> <b>Alignment with Strategic Direction</b>						
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> Both strategies have been slow to establish due to recruitment and infrastructure building for each program. Programs are now fully staffed, and program training for all personnel has been completed.						
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> Physician Education and Outreach – Physician Outreach and Education had a slow start due to a variety of factors. Start up tasks took longer than expected. Recruitment of physicians and practices has been ongoing, and it is reported that several physicians are lined up to participate. To date, no amendment has been signed for SFY 2011, however, discussions are being held and an agreement is being finalized. Health Insurance Enrollment – Implementation appears to be on track.						

### 3. Strategy Changes for 2012

Education and Outreach to Professionals – Use of provider incentives to help with retention into the program will be included.

Health Insurance Enrollment – There will be no changes to this program in SFY2012.

### 4. First Things First Priorities

These strategies address **Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services** – The First Things First Statewide Priority to collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

**PRIORITY NEED 2 :** Families with children birth through age five have limited access to preventative screening and referral services

**Description:** Increase children's access to preventative health care by providing oral, vision, and hearing screening, education and referral

**Strategy:** Developmental and Health Screening

**Regional Title and/or Short Description:**

**Health Screenings** - Sensory and Oral Health Screening

#### Service Units

Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Children Screened	5,000	Strategy was not awarded in 2010		5,000	Not yet contracted for SFY2011	5,000

#### Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction

### 1. Strategy Success

The Regional Council has identified two government agencies to provide these services. Both contracts will be presented at the January State Board meeting.

### 2. Strategy Challenges

The Region has released a total of three Request for Grant Applications with inadequate responses received to both the sensory and oral health screening. Both the Oral Health Screenings and Sensory Screenings are under contract negotiations for government to government agreements.

### 3. Strategy Changes for 2012

This strategy will be continued without modification.

### 4. First Things First Priorities

These strategies address **Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services** – The First Things First Statewide Priority to collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.

**PRIORITY NEED 3 :** Families have limited access to high quality early care and education programs / infant and toddler care

**Description:** There is a need for more affordable, high-quality and accessible early care and education in the Region.

<b>Strategy:</b> Quality First (Statewide)						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Quality First</b> - Expand the number of programs participating in the Quality First Quality Improvement and Rating System. This strategy also includes T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA scholarship and Child Care Health Consultation.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Centers	16	16	16	26	26	26
Homes	4	4	4	8	8	8
TEACH (QF) Scholars	36	36	3	56	56	56
CCHC (QF) Centers	16	16	12	26	26	26
CCHC (QF) Homes	4	4	3	8	8	8
<b>Strategy:</b> Child Care Health Consultation (Statewide)						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Child Care Health Consultation</b> - The Regional Council has funded two Child Care Health Consultants to provide services to 60 additional early care and education programs not enrolled in Quality First.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Centers	50	50	1	50	50	50
Homes	10	10	0	10	10	10
<b>Strategy:</b> Mental Health Consultation (Statewide)						
<b>Regional Title and/or short description:</b> Mental Health Consultation - Recruit two Mental Health Consultants to improve children's health, safety and quality of interactions with providers and increase early identification of health or developmental concerns in 60 regulated centers or homes						
<b>Service Units</b>						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Centers	20	30 centers and homes (not broken out)	TBD	20	10*	10
Homes	10		TBD	10	4	4
*The lower contracted number is due to caseload management for the mental health specialist						
<b>Strategy:</b> Child Care Scholarships (Statewide)						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Quality First Scholarships</b> – Support working families who are facing economic challenges with a scholarship program that will assist families in accessing and retaining their young children in quality early care and education program at a reduced cost.						

Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Children Receiving Scholarships	650	650	650	137	137	114
<b>Summary of Progress and Challenges</b> <b>Rationale for Changes to SFY12</b> <b>Alignment with Strategic Direction</b>						
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> The ongoing communication between the Quality First Coaches, Child Care Health Consultant and Mental Health Consultants has resulted in the establishment of a cohesive system within the child care settings. Ongoing collaborative meetings and the establishment of the program has led to centers and homes being able to receive quality services and supports.						
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> There were significant delays in getting agreements in place to provide Child Care Health Consultation and Mental Health Consultation. Now that the consultants are hired and trained, it is anticipated that the service numbers for this strategy in SFY 2011 will be much closer to the target.						
<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b> This strategy will be continued without modification.						
<b>4. First Things First Priorities</b> These strategies address <b>Quality, Access, and Affordability of Regulated Early Care and Education Settings</b> – The First Things First Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for increased availability of and access to high quality, regulated, culturally responsive, and affordable early care and education programs.						
<b>PRIORITY NEED 4 :</b> Limited opportunities to increase the knowledge and skills sets of family home care providers						
<b>Description:</b> Over 60 percent of the children (17,400) ages 0-3 years within the Pinal Region are being cared for by unregulated family home care providers. The strategy will improve the quality of care for child care homes caring for four or fewer children.						
<b>Strategy:</b> Family, Friends and Neighbors						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Recruit and Support Home Providers</b> - Funding to address lawful unregulated child care homes. The child care home providers will participate in an initial and post-training assessment using a recognized quality assessment tool (Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale, Revised Edition). The goal of this strategy is to increase the number of regulated home care providers in the Pinal Region.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Early Care and Education Providers Served	60	60	57	60	60	60



Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> The Pinal Family, Friends and Neighbors strategy has done an outstanding job with the recruitment of lawful unregulated home care providers into the program. Staff has developed and implemented quarterly networking groups that are receiving professional development opportunities from highly qualified trainers, as well as the establishment and implementation of on-site home visits to help in the continuing improvement of the home environment.
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> Current challenges have been staff turnover, strategizing how to meet grant requirements in regards to following up on year one project participants and ensuring that the providers have, as indicated by the assessment/onsite consultation process, understood how to properly use materials or successfully implement them into their home environment.
<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b> This strategy will be continued without modification.
<b>4. First Things First Priorities</b> The Pinal Regional Partnership Council is responding to a critical need to improve the quality of care in lawful unregulated child care homes. The Region recognizes that unregulated care is part of the early care and education system. Over 60 percent of the children (17,400) ages 0-3 years within the Pinal Region are being cared for by unregulated family home care providers. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council recognizes the complexity of this issue and intends to improve the quality of lawful unregulated family homes and support moving to regulation as appropriate.

PRIORITY NEED 5: Limited access to parental education and education/service delivery systems						
<b>Description:</b> Family support and education is a critical need in the Pinal Region. Not only do families require information about child development, access to high quality early care and education programs, but they also can benefit from increased knowledge about available resources as well as recognition that they may need these resources and support. While some families may qualify for and participate in home visiting programs, many other families may not be comfortable with that type of service and may prefer to access services in other settings in which they feel secure.						
<b>Strategy:</b> Service Coordination ( <i>FTF Directed</i> )						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Family Support and Resource Coordination</b> - Improve coordination of Family Support services and provide enhancement or expansion grants to existing family support services agencies. Develop and maintain a Family Support Network as a point of contact to assist families with referrals to service providers; and increase collaboration among Parenting Education Providers, Home Visiting Providers, Child Care Providers, Health Care Providers, and Parents of children ages birth through five to achieve a comprehensive system of early childhood development and health services that meets the needs of families while reducing service duplication.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families Served	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			In Development		TBD

<b>Strategy:</b> Community-Based Early Literacy						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Community-Based Early Literacy</b> - Expand the capacity of early language and literacy programs to provide support and services to young children and their families. Provide Community Based Early Literacy for parents, families, caregivers, and children of the Region with particular attention to the geographic diversity of the Region for locations of events. <b>Health Based Early Literacy</b> - Expand the capacity of early language and literacy programs to provide support and services to young children and their families.						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			Not part of regional strategy	Not part of regional strategy	Not part of regional strategy
Children	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			2,500	2,500	2,500
Books Distributed	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			Not part of regional strategy	Not part of regional strategy	Not part of regional strategy
Medical Practitioners Participating	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			20	20	20
<b>Strategy:</b> Home Visitation						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Home Visitation</b> - Develop, enhance or expand comprehensive family/parent education and support services through home-visiting to serve families with children birth through age three in underserved and unserved Pinal Region communities						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families	100	100	96	110	110	220
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success Service Coordination - In SFY 2010, this strategy was developed to learn more about implementing a coordinated system within the Pinal Region. Hiring a part time Coordination Specialist will help continue efforts to achieve this strategy and focus on resource management, network coordination, and outreach. Community-Based Early Literacy - Limited information at this time (Contract started on July 1, 2011) Health Based Early Literacy – Limited information at this time (Contract started on July 1, 2011) Home Visitation – Started second year of utilizing tools to help families with progression through program; these tools assess each enrolled family and help to set future goals. Progress towards family goals are addressed with each family during home visits and there is continued progress towards their completion. Developmental screenings have taken place as planned and follow up referrals are taking place as appropriate.						

## 2. Strategy Challenges

Service Coordination - This strategy is awaiting approval by Arizona Department of Administration, for a First Things First part time position. Once approval is granted, the position will assist the Regional Coordinator to achieve the goals of this strategy. It is anticipated that strategy will shift from a planning stage to an implementation phase in SFY2012.

Community-Based Early Literacy – None to report

Health Based Early Literacy – None to report

Home Visitation – Staffing qualifications do not meet the First Things First Standards of Practice for Home Visitation, the Grantee is currently providing professional development opportunities for staff to move forward with their education. Also the Regional Council would like to expand the number of families being served through this strategy.

## 3. Strategy Changes for 2012

It is the intent of the Regional Council to implement a home visitation system that addresses Regional specific needs. Therefore, the Regional Council would like to expand the scope and reach for the current Home Visitation strategy to reach more children and more communities within the Region.

## 4. First Things First Priorities

These strategies address **Supports and Services for Families** – The First Things First Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

## PRIORITY NEED 6: Lack of highly qualified early care professionals

**Description:** Identifying ways to support the professional development of the early care and education workforce is a priority of the Pinal Regional Partnership Council. The education and stability of the early education workforce is key to quality care. The preparation and ongoing professional development of early educators is a fundamental component of a high quality early learning system.

**Strategy:** Scholarships non-TEACH (Multi-region)

### Regional Title and/or Short Description:

**Professional Career Pathway Project** - The Professional Career Pathway Project (PCPP) is a scholarship program offered at community colleges throughout Arizona for early childhood education classes. Limited funding is currently provided through the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Care Administration. To be eligible, individuals must be employed or volunteer in center-based programs, family child care provider homes, or family group homes. The program pays tuition and registration fees for specific courses in early childhood education, including those necessary for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, the Community College Certificate of Completion and the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood Education.

### Service Units

Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Scholars	40	40	7	60	40	60

**Strategy:** Community Based Early Care and Education Training

### Regional Title and/or Short Description:

**Community Based Training** - Expand and enhance existing community based early care and education training and support for professional development

Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Early Care and Education Professionals	Strategy was not awarded in 2010			Strategy was not awarded in 2011		TBD
Strategy: First Things First Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)						
Regional Title and/or Short Description: Professional REWARD\$ - Implement a compensation incentive program to augment wages and retain the early care and education workforce						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Incentive Awards Distributed	25	24	16	25	19	25
Strategy: Recruitment into Field						
Regional Title and/or Short Description: Recruitment into the Early Care and Education Field - Expand the number of new professionals entering the early care and education workforce. Scholarships will be made available to recent high school graduates and nontraditional students						
Service Units						
Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Professionals	15	15	3	15	15	15
Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction						
1. Strategy Success The Pinal Regional Partnership Council has purposefully designed a comprehensive professional development continuum to improve the quality of care in the Pinal Region. The focused support of these professionals, through a host of different levels of professional development, will allow the Regional Council to reach as many child care providers as possible. The combination of strategies has the potential to provide a range of professional development to nearly 75 percent of the early childhood workforce in the Pinal Region. First Things First Professional REWARD\$ - The Region was able to achieve 100% of the total service units for the SFY 2010. Recruitment into Field – This strategy has been very successful. Even though this strategy started midyear, the awarded agency has been able to conduct outreach throughout the Pinal Region and currently has 12 students enrolled in the program.						

## 2. Strategy Challenges

Scholarships non-T.E.A.C.H. – Recruitment within the Region has been slow due to the contract starting mid-year and not synchronizing with the school calendar year.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®ARIZONA scholarship – Quality First Only – Recruitment within the Region has been limited with little response.

Community Based Early Care and Education Training – Two Requests for Grant Applications were released resulting in no awards. This has made implementation of this strategy challenging. The Regional Council will be evaluating the strategy in January 2011 to determine if there is still a need to address community based training.

First Things First Professional REWARD\$ - Challenges have centered around community misinformation, changes to the Quality First wait list and the Rating component, and information distribution. A major challenge was posed when the Quality First wait list was archived in July, making it necessary for all previously eligible programs to re-apply for Quality First. This made programs who were originally eligible for REWARD\$ ineligible. A large influx of calls was received about programs not being listed and REWARD\$ staff had to walk many staff through the process of reapplying.

## 3. Strategy Changes for 2012

This strategy will continue without modification.

## 4. First Things First Priorities

These strategies address **Professional Development System** – The First Things First Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for the development and enhancement of an early childhood professional development system that addresses availability, accessibility, affordability, quality, and articulation.

**PRIORITY NEED 7:** Lack of support for families with children birth through age five with identified high risk medical needs

**Description:** Unfortunately, not all families who need the service qualify for the state funded High-Risk Infant Home Visitation Program. Additionally, though many children who are transported to intensive care centers (including those enrolled in the state funded program), live in rural parts of Arizona, locating and linking to follow up care close to home is difficult. In some instances there are no providers, but even when there are, locating the appropriate care provider is difficult. This results in many families having to make the difficult choice to either find the time and resources to return to Phoenix for follow up care, attempt to locate local services on their own, or forego these services altogether. In an attempt to bridge the gap for those families who do not qualify for state funded services and help address the need to locate local follow up care, the Pinal Regional Partnership Council has developed this strategy.

**Strategy:** High Risk Newborn Follow Up

**Regional Title and/or Short Description:** High Risk Infant Home Visitation - Expand capacity of professional nursing services for infants who were placed in the neonatal intensive care unit for 24 hours or more at birth. A public health nurse will assess medical, developmental, cognitive, fine and gross motor skills of the high risk infant. The Community Health Nurse also addresses parental concerns, assesses home environment, discusses parent well-being, and provides families with resources and referrals within the community, as needed.

### Service Units

Service Units	FY 10 Target	FY 10 Contracted	FY 10 Actual	FY 11 Target	FY 11 Contracted	FY 12 Target
Families	Not a Regional Strategy in 2010			300	300	300

<b>Summary of Progress and Challenges</b> <b>Rationale for Changes to SFY12</b> <b>Alignment with Strategic Direction</b>						
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> July 1, 2010 was the award date for this strategy – data reports and outcomes will be available in quarter two of SFY 2011.						
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> The eligibility standards for this program have been an issue and a concern as some children who do indeed need the program are determined ineligible. One example is that a child went home after birth and then returned to the hospital with medical issues, this child would not qualify for the Pinal High Risk Newborn Follow Up strategy.  Regional staff is working with policy staff to confirm Regional children’s eligibility into the Pinal program and developing a possible contract amendment. As of right now, children can participate if they were in the NICP unit 24 hours or more. Having said that, the AZDHS program will pick-up any children that were in the NICP unit for 5 days or greater. The Regional funded program includes any children that received transportation to a NICP unit as well. The Regional Council would like to expand the eligibility to include children that go into the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The PICU is for children that have already gone home and returned to the hospital for critical health concerns.						
<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b> Review the qualification requirements to ensure that all children that should be eligible are participating in this program.						
<b>4. First Things First Priorities</b> These strategies address <b>Access to Quality Health Care Coverage and Services</b> – The First Things First Statewide Priority to collaborate with partners to increase access to high quality health care services (including oral health and mental health) and affordable health care coverage for young children and their families.						

<b>PRIORITY NEED 8:</b> Limited support and services for families who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to provide nutritional requirements for their children’s success						
<b>Description:</b> Within the Pinal Region there are many resources available to families who are currently receiving services that focus on parenting skills, child development information and support, and referrals services. However, families that are not eligible cannot access these services.						
<b>Strategy:</b> Food Insecurity						
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> <b>Food Assistance and Nutrition</b> - The Pinal Regional Partnership Council will support the Region’s families that have been impacted by the economic crisis by expanding access to nutritious food and providing resources and information that support the needs of families with children birth through age five. This strategy will be addressed through the coordination of local community resources in provision of basic childhood necessities.						
<b>Service Units</b>						
<b>Service Units</b>	<b>FY 10 Target</b>	<b>FY 10 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 10 Actual</b>	<b>FY 11 Target</b>	<b>FY 11 Contracted</b>	<b>FY 12 Target</b>
Food Boxes	4,000	550	3,502	6,000	6,000	4,000



Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> In SFY 2010, as an emergency response, over 3,502 food boxes were distributed Region wide, over 3,095 children were served, over 7,522 children and over 9,132 supplemental items were supplied for young children and their families.
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> The Regional Council recognizes that this strategy provides a short term impact to ensure children are not going hungry and is interested in observing the long term impact of preparing children to be healthy and ready for school. Current data provides only short term outcomes rather than long term impact.
<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b> The Regional Council would like to start transitioning this strategy to end at the end of the next funding cycle.
<b>4. First Things First Priorities</b> These strategy address <b>Supports and Services for Families</b> – The First Things First Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, provide funding, and advocate for development, enhancement, and sustainability of a variety of high quality, culturally responsive, and affordable services, supports, and community resources for young children and their families.

<b>PRIORITY NEED 9:</b> Limited understanding and information about the importance of early childhood development and health
<b>Description:</b> Develop an awareness campaign about early childhood development and health and First Things First; increase awareness of programs and services through distribution of resource information.
<b>Strategy:</b> <i>Community Outreach</i> (Statewide) (FTF Directed)
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Utilize the expertise of a Community Outreach Liaison to implement the Pinal communication strategy
<b>Strategy:</b> <i>Community Awareness</i> (Statewide) (FTF Directed)
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> A community awareness and mobilization campaign to build the public awareness of early childhood development and health issues within the Region.
<b>Strategy:</b> <i>Media</i> (Statewide) (FTF Directed)
<b>Regional Title and/or Short Description:</b> Media Buys including TV, radio, newspaper, grocery carts, floor mats and cooler decals, billboards, theater ads.

Summary of Progress and Challenges Rationale for Changes to SFY12 Alignment with Strategic Direction
<b>1. Strategy Success</b> Community Outreach Liaison has been contracted and trained. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 121 “Children’s Champions” have been recruited within the Region.</li> <li>• 30 presentations have been made in the Pinal Region, 7 Billboards and 131 News prints</li> </ul>
<b>2. Strategy Challenges</b> None
<b>3. Strategy Changes for 2012</b> The Pinal Regional Council extended the Consultant contract from December 31 – June 30 2011. Media funding has been increased based upon the recommendations from the First Things First Communications Director. Funding will be combined with the other Regions to ensure media saturation of the area.

Community Awareness funds will be increased to allow for purchasing of outreach materials and provide sponsorship and/or participation in community events.

**4. First Things First Priorities**

These strategies address **Building Public Awareness and Support** – The First Things First Statewide Priority to convene partners, provide leadership, and provide funding for efforts to increase public awareness of and support for early childhood development, health, and early education among partners, public officials, policy makers, and the public.



## Section II B

### Budget: Regional Council Strategy Allotments (Date 01/05/2011)

Pinal Regional Partnership Council Operational Plan Funding Summary					2012 Proposed Allotments
	2010		2011		2012
FY Allocation	\$5,765,870.00		\$5,553,050.63		\$5,251,149.00
Carry Forward From Previous Year	na		\$3,194,744.57		\$2,245,556.59
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$5,765,870.00</b>		<b>\$8,747,795.20</b>		<b>\$7,496,705.59</b>
Strategies	Allotted	Expended	Allotted	Awarded	Proposed
Physician Education and Outreach (Statewide)	\$135,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$250,000.00
Health Insurance Enrollment	\$50,000.00	\$12,912.00	\$102,953.00	\$102,953.00	\$100,000.00
Developmental and Health Screening	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00
Quality First (Statewide)	\$512,453.00	\$254,377.38	\$822,182.12	\$806,002.12	\$736,000.00
Scholarships TEACH (Statewide)	\$98,580.00	\$12,490.88	\$176,490.00	\$176,490.00	\$107,000.00
Child Care Health Consultation (Statewide)	\$296,667.00	\$112,955.71	\$350,000.00	\$340,780.90	\$376,000.00
Mental Health Consultation (Statewide)	\$100,000.00	\$52,634.15	\$240,000.00	\$219,093.49	\$250,000.00
Family, Friends and Neighbors	\$355,000.00	\$252,502.64	\$355,000.00	\$355,000.00	\$355,000.00
Service Coordination (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300,000.00	\$0.00	\$300,000.00
Community-Based Early Literacy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$350,000.00	\$345,570.00	\$355,000.00
Home Visitation	\$371,106.77	\$371,106.71	\$628,893.23	\$628,893.23	\$750,000.00
Scholarships non-TEACH (Multi-region)	\$126,250.00	\$12,664.12	\$151,560.00	\$151,560.00	\$151,560.00
Community-Based ECE Training	\$125,000.00	\$0.00	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	\$250,000.00
Child Care Scholarships (Statewide)	\$1,168,456.00	\$1,168,456.00	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$850,000.00
FTF Professional REWARD\$ (Statewide)	\$50,000.00	\$11,200.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Recruitment into Field	\$75,000.00	\$21,464.93	\$75,000.00	\$73,530.16	\$75,000.00
High Risk Newborn Follow Up	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400,000.00	\$399,980.00	\$400,000.00
Food Insecurity	\$245,884.00	\$242,883.26	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$200,000.00
Community Outreach (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Community Awareness (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$50,000.00	\$34,739.90	\$20,000.00	\$560.37	\$20,000.00
Media (Statewide) (FTF Directed)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$269,855.00	\$145,923.00	\$168,506.83
Needs and Assets	\$14,250.00	\$10,737.75	\$17,052.97	\$11,615.51	\$0.00
Arizona Health Survey	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,478.09	\$10,478.09	\$0.00
Child Care Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,675.03	\$26,675.03	\$0.00
Children's Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,509.96	\$2,509.96	\$0.00
Parent Kits - Study	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,889.76	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$260,699.45	\$260,699.45	\$0.00
2012 Evaluation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$386,348.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,023,646.77</b>	<b>\$2,606,125.43</b>	<b>\$6,502,238.61</b>	<b>\$5,108,314.31</b>	<b>\$6,730,414.83</b>
<b>Carry Forward to Following Year</b>		<b>\$3,159,744.57</b>	<b>\$2,245,556.59</b>		<b>\$766,290.76</b>

**Section II C Information about changes in funding level for strategies from 2011 to 2012**

Strategy Name	Previous Funding Amount (SFY 2011)	New Funding Amount (SFY 2012)	Rationale for Change in Funding
Health Insurance Enrollment	\$102,953.00	\$100,000.00	This decrease was due to over funding because of the previous 15 month contract.
Mental Health Consultation	\$240,000.00	\$250,000.00	The increase is to cover the administrative cost associated with this program.
Health Based Early Literacy	\$50,000.00	\$55,000.00	The increase is to cover the administrative cost associated with this program.
Home Visitation	\$500,000.00	\$750,000.00	The increase to the allocation is to allow for the Region to expand the scope and reach for the Home Visitation strategy.
Food Insecurity	\$300,000.00	\$200,000.00	The allocation decrease is due to the Regional Council's desire to transition this strategy to end in the next year.
Child Care Scholarships	\$500,000.00	\$850,000.00	The allocation increase is to allow the Regional Council to maintain the number of Quality First scholarships from the previous year.
Community Outreach	\$80,000.00	\$100,000.00	The increase reflects the Regional Partnership Council's desire to fund Communication Outreach activities at the full amount as proposed by First Things First Communications Division.
Media	\$269,855.00	\$168,506.83	The decrease reflects the Regional Partnership Council's desire to fund public awareness activities at the full amount as proposed by First Things First Communications Division.
Carry Forward		\$766,290.76	Carry forward in 2011 was a result of un-awarded strategies. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council is maintaining carry-forward in 2012 in order to sustain funding for existing strategies in future years.

## **Section III**

### **System Building Impact**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council is committed to continuing to build the early childhood system that began with the SFY 2010 Funding Plan and continued in SFY 2011. The initial years allowed the Regional Council to focus on the Regional needs and to embark upon the development of a Region wide comprehensive system that addresses many of the major identified gaps in services for young children and their families in the Pinal Region. The SFY 2012 Pinal Regional Funding Plan will continue to tackle these service disparities while expanding several other significant approaches. The Regional Council intends to move forward acknowledging the need to utilize existing resources and to build on successful Regional programs.

The Pinal Regional Council is intentional in its focus and support of the mission of First Things First to give children maximum opportunities for optimal development and school success. The Regional Council is fully aware that they are building and implementing a system which supports families and communities in raising healthy children who enter school with a strong foundation and optimal development. The Regional Council has been very deliberate about the selection of strategies, focusing on three key factors: strategies' direct link to the identified needs, those which will provide the most impact, and those which can best be supported by the funding criteria. In SFY 2011, the Regional Council added strategies which further support more targeted services, given the economic challenges faced by many families in the Pinal Region. The combination of strategies, within the three focused goal areas of Early Learning, Family Support and Health/Mental Health, were carefully selected to achieve the desired outcomes for the Region and to support building an effective early childhood development and health system.

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council believes that each goal area is important; and recommends distributing resources so that they predominantly target Early Learning (40 percent), Family Support (35 percent), and Health (20 percent). Early Learning encompasses Quality and Access, and Professional Development.

### **Early Learning**

It is an understatement to say that Regional families are facing difficult financial times that create greater dependency on support networks and social services. Families have to depend on child care provider services for their child for eight or more hours a day as they look for employment, work multiple jobs, or just try to make ends meet. Therefore, the Pinal Regional Partnership Council has deliberately designed a comprehensive professional development continuum to improve the quality of care that these children and families receive. This continuum focuses on lawfully unregulated care (also known as Family, Friends and Neighbor Care or Kith and Kin Care) and includes community based professional development, which will articulate to college credits. The Council's goal is to meet the needs of families while increasing the number of highly trained and qualified professionals in the Early Care and Education field. The Regional Council recognizes the need to retain these professionals and to promote continuing education and pathways to college credits and credentials/degrees. The Regional Council has elected to do this through the Professional Career Pathway Project (PCPP) and the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® ARIZONA scholarship strategies. The selected strategies are based on preexisting, successfully implemented programs with a history and reputation among the residents of the Region.

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council views high quality early care and education as containing two components: care provider professional development and program quality improvement (including program environment and operations, and administration/management). To this end, the Pinal Regional Council is committed to improving the quality of care that children and families in the Region receive, through the expansion of the Quality First statewide strategy and the development of a Professional Development continuum.



Improving the quality of early care and education available to families in the Pinal Region is critical. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council believes that the proposed strategies cultivate an opportunity to advance the professional development goals of those planning to care for children, those currently volunteering in a child care program, and/or those who are currently working in the early care and education field.

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council has purposefully designed a comprehensive professional development continuum to improve the quality of care in the Pinal Region. The focused support of these professionals, through a host of different levels of professional development, will allow the Regional Council to reach as many child care providers as possible. The combination of strategies has the potential to provide a range of professional development to nearly 75 percent of the early childhood workforce in the Pinal Region.

First, the Regional Council recognizes the need to recruit new professionals into the field. Through the scholarship of the Recruitment into the Field strategy, the Regional Council will create a two year early childhood recruitment scholarship to encourage new professionals into the field. Scholarship recipients will be required to volunteer at a Quality First child care center within the Region throughout the duration of the scholarship award period and following completion of the scholarship contract. Each recipient will be required to fulfill a two year work obligation in the Region.

Second, the Regional Council realizes that not all child care providers are prepared to move forward with coursework at institutions of higher education. For these individuals, the Regional Council seeks to improve the quality of community based professional development, while linking community based training to college credits. In addition to community based opportunities for professional development, the Regional Council wants to ensure the availability of professional development to those individuals who are ready to participate in higher education. Through the Professional Career Pathway Project (PCPP) scholarship program and the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood <sup>®</sup>ARIZONA scholarship program for Quality First, further advancement in professional development by the child care workforce will be encouraged. The Professional Career Pathway Project allows current child care providers to receive funding for early childhood education coursework at local community colleges. It additionally provides funding for obtaining the National Child Development

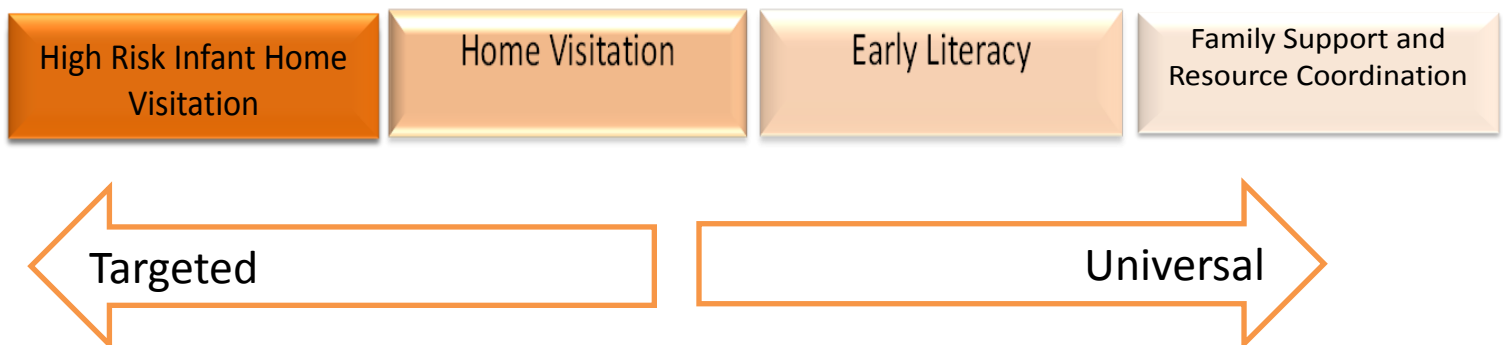
Associate credential (CDA). Recipients will be able to continue their college careers through the T.E.A.C.H.® ARIZONA scholarship program, earning the additional credits needed to obtain an Associate's Degree or their Bachelor's Degree. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council understands that there is a critical need to create a seamless process to assist child care providers to make substantive educational progress. The preexisting relationship between the local community college and local non-profit agencies is a tremendous benefit that allows the Pinal Region to move aggressively forward in addressing and achieving both the Quality and Access, and Professional Development goals.

Nearly 32 percent of the Region's children are cared for in some form of regulated care. Therefore, the second component for improving the quality of care within the Pinal Region is the Regional Council's focus on environmental quality in regulated early care and education centers and family provider settings. Through a mix of three strategies, the Regional Council will improve the quality of care for children in the Region. The Pinal Regional Council will focus the second to the largest percentage of the SFY 2012 allocation to the expansion of Quality First. The goal is to provide opportunities for 45 percent of regulated child care facilities within the Pinal Region to participate in Quality First.

Additionally, the Regional Council has allocated funding to support access to Child Care Health Consultation and Mental Health Consultants for the remaining regulated child care facilities. Furthermore, 240 additional children will benefit from the Recruitment and Home Providers Support strategies, which will not only assist lawfully unregulated home care providers to move towards regulation but will link recipients to Regionally funded professional development opportunities.

Finally, the Regional Council will reestablish the statewide child care scholarship program, "Quality First Scholarship," to help families with the most significant need. This strategy will be funded through the Regional carry forward funds for two years, making 137 scholarships available within the Region.

### Family Support



The Pinal Regional Partnership Council envisions continuums of family support strategies to assist families with young children so they are supported from birth to age five. The Family Support and Resource Coordination strategies will facilitate an opportunity for agencies to provide seamless services in a coordinated effort. Through this strategy, families will receive Regional and state early childhood information. In addition, Regionally funded and non-funded agencies will have an opportunity to coordinate family support efforts. This strategy is intended to be a "one stop" resource for Regional information, education, and referrals to social services. The addition of a new early literacy strategy will expand the family support reach to families that may not qualify for current services. All families in the Pinal Region need developmental support in order to optimize developmental outcomes that ensure children enter school ready to succeed. This strategy will

provide early literacy through two methods: expanding community based early literacy opportunities and expansions of early literacy outreach using medical homes.

Home Visitation Services is a strategy that is targeted to high risk families. The goal of this strategy is to stabilize the family and provide information and resources based on the family's needs. However, after engaging community members and Regional stakeholders in further dialogue regarding home visitation services, the Regional Council has decided to expand the reach of the strategy to include more targeted support and services to high risk infants in the Region. The High Risk Infant Home Visitation strategy has been added as a new strategy in the SFY 2011 year and has provided opportunities for families to receive Regional support for children who are at the highest risk of developing physical and developmental delays.

## **Health**

Families within the Region will benefit from improved systems of coordination between health care services, early detection, and services that increase access to insurance enrollment. Through two levels of health strategies, the Pinal Regional Partnership Council will improve health services to young children living in the Pinal Region. The first of the two levels focuses on prevention and early detection of children's health needs in the Region. Through the continuation of the health screening strategy, children will receive vision, hearing, and dental screenings with an education and referral component for parents and child care service providers. The second level will focus on health care providers and will improve networking and resource referral among health providers working with young children within the Pinal Region. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council recognizes that unless there is Regional support of health care providers with continuing medical education, physician outreach and education regarding Region resources, the health system for children will continue to be negatively impacted by the major gaps.

For the SFY 2012 funding period, the Regional Council has decided to maintain its original list of prioritized needs. These strategies have been carefully designed to assist in the building of an effective early childhood development and health system within the Pinal Region. In collaboration with already existing community resources, including family support and social services agencies, community training institutions, and institutions of higher education, the strategies will nurture the development of a more competent community that better meets the needs of families with young children, especially during harsh economic times.